

REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows:

Amended:	1, 3, 5, 7-17
Canceled:	6, 18, 19
New:	None
Pending:	1-5, 7-17

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the amendments is either apparent, or is as described in the text below.

The claim amendments are virtually all taken from prior claims. Hence, no new matter nor new issues are introduced. The clarifications about the fastening mechanism and the serpentine article are taken from prior claim 3. The recitation of proximity to the fastening mechanism is taken from prior claim 6. The recitation of the size of the non-adjustable loop is consistent with prior claim 18, and further supported for example at page 1 of the specification.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment meets the requirements of 37 CFR 1.116 since:

- A. The Amendment cancels claim 6, 18 and 19.
- B. The Amendment complies with requirements of form expressly set forth in the Office Action by the cancellation of claim 18.
- C. The Amendment places the claims in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

Claim Objections

The objection to claim 18 is resolved by the cancellation of this claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e) – Plzak

Claims 1-4 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), based on an assertion of anticipation by Plzak, US 6,295,700. Applicant respectfully traverses.²

The claimed invention is to a system that includes a non-adjustable, closed loop *in addition to* an adjustable loop for securing objects. The cited Fig. 8B illustrates only an adjustable loop for securing objects. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e) – Doty

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), based on an assertion of anticipation by Doty, US 6,637,077. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Doty describes an adjustable strap designed to tightly and linearly secure point A to point B.³ Accordingly, there is no adjustable loop. Moreover, the elongated loops 34 and 48 are not for use as a handle, but for use in conjunction with S-hooks 28 and 42, respectively, to fix the ends of the device to points A and B. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e) – Miller

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), based on an assertion of anticipation by Miller, US 5,581,583. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Miller describes a device for restraining a prisoner in transit. Its loop of strap 18 is separated from the adjustable loop by two buckle or ratcheting devices. That loop is used to

² Applicant does not concede that any art cited under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is in fact prior art to his invention.

³ "Point A" and "point B" is the present Applicant's terminology.

control the tension on cam buckle locking clip 16. That loop is not therefore located to facilitate transporting an object. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Plzak

Claims 5-7 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Plzak. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Irrespective of whether Plzak describes the dimensions set forth in this claim, the base rejection of claim 1 is in error as discussed above. Moreover, since Plzak does not disclose or suggest a non-adjustable, closed loop coordinated with an adjustable loop for securing objects, and the document does not disclose or suggest anything about dimensions for such a non-adjustable, closed loop. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Plzak/Kim/Decathlon

Claims 8-19 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Plzak in view of either Kim, US 4,971,354 or Decathlon SA, FR 2,744,997. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Kim describes a car safety belt with integrated air bag. The belt incorporates an "S-shaped" loop in conjunction with a lanyard that activates the air bag. While the word "loop" is used, the structure is not intended to be permanent nor even to be a loop in the relevant sense. Activation "eliminates the loop." (As set forth in Col. 4, second paragraph.) In any case, Kim does not describe "folding and affixing the serpentine article in a 'S' curve, such that one of the opposing 'C' sections of the S curve forms the loop." Moreover, it does not describe or motivate creating a non-adjustable, closed loop of strap positioned as claimed.

Decathlon SA appears to describe S-shaped stitches in horse reins. It does not describe a loop of the type at issue here, nor using one of the C sections of the stitching to form such a loop.

Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Doty

Claims 5 and 6 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Doty. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Office asserts that the dimensions in question would derive from Doty's use for its loops. Applicant respectfully notes that Doty's illustrated uses (Figures 2 and 7) involve lengthy folds around boating cleats and motorcycle structure. These uses are not likely to be met by the claimed, smaller dimensions. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Doty/Plzak

Claim 3 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Doty in view of Plzak. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Office asserts that it would have been obvious to use the buckle of Plzak in the device of Doty. Assuming, for the sake of argument that this were so, the modified Doty does not meet the claims for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Doty/Kim/Decathlon

Claims 8-19 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Doty in view of either Kim or Decathlon. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The defects of Doty to meet the base claim, and Kim or Decathlon to meet the dependent claims at issue, are discussed above.

Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Miller

Claim 5 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Miller. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Office asserts that the dimensions in question would derive from Miller's use for its loops. Assuming this assertion for the sake of argument, the dimensions would be applied to a loop altogether misplaced with respect to the Applicant's claims. Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Miller/Kim/Decathlon

Claims 8-9 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on an assertion of obviousness over Miller in view of either Kim or Decathlon. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The defects of Miller to meet the base claim, and Kim or Decathlon to meet the dependent claims at issue, are discussed above.

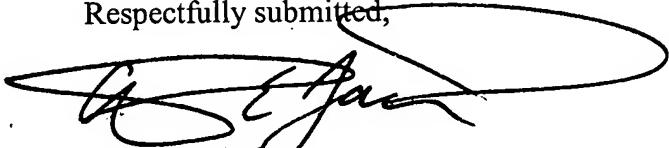
Accordingly, the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

In light of these amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Amendment should be entered, the rejections should be withdrawn, and that the application is in condition for allowance.⁴

Respectfully submitted,



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⁴ FEE DEFICIENCY

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